

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044927

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 /016 R

DRAFTED BY SCA/SCS/JFHUGHES/CEH

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EA/APN:PETER MORRISSEY (INFO)

----- 011073

P 062035Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS STATE 044927

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, (WELLER, GEORGE)

SUBJECT: W/W GEORGE WELLER

REF: CANBERRA 1273

EMBASSY REQUESTED DO ALL POSSIBLE INCREASE AUSTRALIAN
ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING GEORGE WELLER WHO ACCORDING HIS
COUSIN'S INFORMATION NOW OVERDUE PORT MORESBY AND MELBOURNE.
AS EMBASSY AWARE WELLER IS HIGHLY RESPECTED JOURNALIST,
RETIRIED MIDDLE EAST BUREAU CHIEF CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, AND
PUTLIZER PRIZE WINNER. BROTHER AND COUSIN LIKELY TO BRING
CASE ATENTION NATIONAL PRESS CLUB, CHIDAILY NEWS, PROMINENT
JOURNALISTS AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WHICH COULD CREATE UN-
FAVORABLE PUBLICITY.

CONSUL GENERAL PALERMO, NOW IN DEPT TEMPORARILY, WROTE
POLITICAL OFFICER THOMAS CONLON LAST OCTOBER ABOUT WELLER
AUSTRALIAN TRIP AND HOPES CONLON WILL TAKE PERSONAL
INTEREST IN CASE.

COUSIN REPORTS FEB 11 LETTER FROM LAE INDICATES WELLER
COMPLETED TOUR NEW BRITAIN ISLAND, TRAVELING BY TRAWLER AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 044927

OPEN BOAT, VISITING PRIMITIVE MEN OF HIGHLANDS AND SEPIK

RIVER ON NORTH COAST. HE WAS SUFFERING FROM SUNBURN, PAINFUL PRICKLY HEAT EXHAUSTION. FAMILY FEARS HE MAY BE ILL OR WORSE AS RESULT BUKA INCIDENT IN AREA WHERE NO MEDICAL ATTENTION AVAILABLE. WELLER IS 66 YEARS OLD. HE MAY BE IN RABAUL, TRINIDAD OR FLY AT CATHOLIC MISSIONS IF ANY ARE LOCATED THOSE AREAS. KISSINGER

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